

Governor Warner's commitment to improving school readiness, coupled with the growing corporate leadership in this arena across the Commonwealth, presents a dynamic opportunity for a transformation in Virginia's approach to early childhood education. The Governor's Early Childhood Summit convenes four key audiences to discuss effective strategies.

Set amidst a six-week blitz of early childhood activities across the Commonwealth between Mothers' Day and Fathers' Day, and raising important awareness and recognition of the issues, the Governor's Early Childhood Summit will present opportunities to educate key stakeholders, encourage emerging leadership, and recognize the significant public-private partnerships committed to building a strong, comprehensive early childhood system in Virginia.

The Governor's Early Childhood Summit

May-June, 2005

EMPLOYER STRATEGY SESSION *Partners: Bon Secours Health System and VCU Health System*

Wednesday, May 25 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Jepson Alumni Center, University of Richmond

Audience: Chief executives and senior human resource officers of Virginia businesses; women public and private sector leaders

Speakers: Carol Evans, CEO, Working Mother Media; Donna Klein, CEO, Corporate Voices for Working Families; Lois Backon, VP, The Families and Work Institute; a panel of representatives of Virginia businesses, including those recognized by *Working Mother Magazine* as employers of choice
The objective of this event is to give the Virginia corporate community the opportunity to learn about smart strategies regarding work/life issues, primarily quality child care. The trends of a shrinking labor force and growing need for capable workers necessitate employers' consideration of strategies which result in both short-term and long-term gains in successfully recruiting and retaining a strong workforce.

SPEAKER & SPONSOR RECEPTION *Partner: Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce/Youth Matters*

Wednesday, May 25 5:30 p.m.-7 p.m. Jepson Alumni Center, Bottomley House, Univ. of Richmond
Sponsors of Summit events and other key leaders will be invited to meet and converse with speakers from the Governor's luncheon and the Employer Strategy event.

LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON *Partners: the Robins Foundation and The Norfolk Foundation*

Thursday, May 26 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. The Jefferson Hotel, Richmond

Audience: Key business and government leaders

Speakers: Governor Mark R. Warner; former North Carolina Governor James Hunt; Drs. Craig and Sharon Ramey, Georgetown University; Arthur J. Rolnick, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
The objective is to inform public and private leaders regarding the economic benefits of investments in school readiness, to inspire leadership and partnership to tackle the issues, and to announce and promote current initiatives moving the agenda.

SMART STRATEGIES FOR FRONT LINE LEADERS

Saturday, June 4 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University

Audience: Center- and Home-Based Child Care Owners

The objective is to build capacity in the child care industry to provide high quality care in a more cost-efficient and cost-effective way. Workshops on business skills, budgeting, human resource management will be presented, as well as information about the economic impact of the child care industry to Virginia.

Presenters: Kathleen Corley, Director, Business and Financial Services, Development Corporation for Children, Minneapolis, MN; Louise Stoney, Alliance for Early Childhood Finance.

LEARNING COMMUNITY FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PARTNERSHIPS

Tuesday, June 7 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Student Commons, Virginia Commonwealth University

Audience: Coalitions made up of diverse partners working on early childhood systems initiatives across the Commonwealth, particularly the fifteen groups that made application to the Early Childhood Partnership grants.

The objective of the Learning Community is to highlight innovative models and pilot programs from across the state, allowing localities to share experiences and best practices.

STATEWIDE EARLY CHILDHOOD BLITZ

Mother's Day to Father's Day, May 8 to June 19

As a complement to the Governor's Early Childhood Summit, this unique celebration of events across the state will bring special emphasis to the recognition of the importance of early childhood development. Organizations supporting and serving children ages 0-5 will host local events to educate parents and others about the developmental needs of children.

The objective of the Blitz is to educate and inspire parents, providers, community leaders, the corporate community, the media, the legislature about the benefits of investing in early childhood, thereby building the will and demand for sharper attention to early childhood education.